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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA [US/US]; 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94607-5200 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): COSMAN, Pamela [US/US]; 8708 Nottingham Place, La Jolla, CA 92037

(US). LEONTARIS, Athanasios [GB/US]; 3867 Miramar Street, Apt. D, La Jolla, CA 92037-1312 (US). CHELLALAPA, Vijay [IN/US]; 9168B Regents Road, La Jolla, CA 92037 (US).

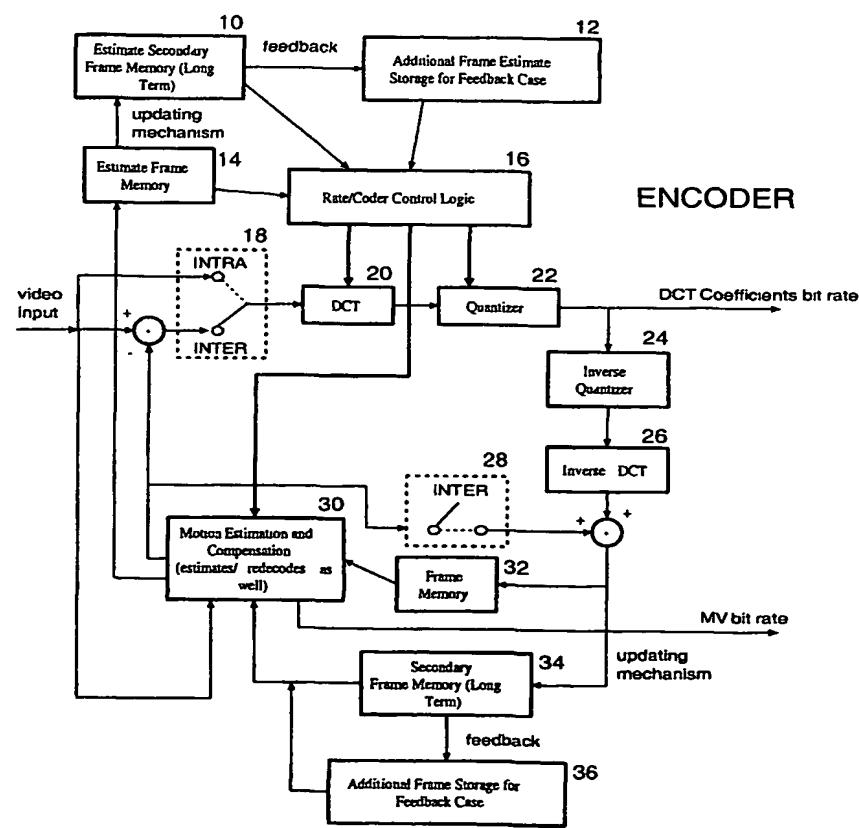
(74) Agent: FALLON, Steven, P.; Greer, Burns & Crain, Ltd., 300 S. Wacker Drive - Suite 2500, Chicago, IL 60606 (US).

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(54) Title: VIDEO ENCODING METHODS AND DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A dual, and possibly multiple, frame approach is used by the invention (fig.1A). Embodiments of the invention include making a decision (18) to use a long term reference frame, which is a frame other than an immediate past reference frame, to conduct INTER coding, or to conduct INTRA frame coding. Other embodiments include use of long and short term reference blocks (34), and make a decision between two types of INTER coding blocks and INTRA coding (18). In accordance with embodiments of the invention, a long term frame is a high quality frame. The high quality frame may be used as a reference frame under particular conditions.



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 375/240.03

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 375/240.03

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,883,674 A (OGURA) 16 March 1999 (16.03.1999), see fig.1, see col.4, ln.25 to col.8, ln.40	1-30

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"Z" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Christopher Kelley

Telephone No. (703) 305-4700